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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

October 4, 2001

The Honorable Timothy Muris
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairman Muris:

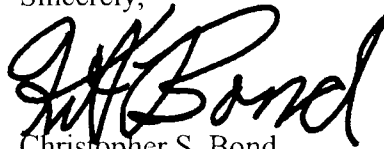
As we discussed on July 31, 2001, the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (Committee) is studying the effects of various retail trade practices on competition in the retail grocery industry.

The Committee has received many complaints about retail trade practices and I appreciated the opportunity to convey my concerns to you in person. I understand that this is a very difficult issue to study, but I emphasize the seriousness of this issue to small manufacturers and retailers. It is critical that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) should leave no stone unturned in its efforts to obtain the necessary data and to begin its analysis of how such diverse issues as Category Captains, Slotting Allowances, Pay-to-stay fees, Buyer Power etc. can be detrimental to healthy competition.

During the 106th Congress, the Committee had many opportunities to work closely with the FTC and its staff and I am looking forward to continuing our relationship throughout the 107th Congress and beyond.

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with me and for your help in resolving this difficult issue. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me or have your staff call Paul Conlon at 202/224-

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Ranking Member